

# Review of: "Uncelebrated Sports Officials in the Middle East & Africa"

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Potential competing interests: None

## GENERAL REVIEW

Considering the lack of research and relevant literature in the field, it is very brave from author to dive into the subject at hand. Generally, the paper is well structured and easy to read with tables helping the reader to navigate more easily through the document. Methodological considerations are thoroughly explained and consistently implemented throughout the paper. Literature is wide and data collected during the research is relevant to the research. As author wrote in the conclusion - focus of the paper shifted during research (which can be seen from the difference between abstract and the conclusion) leading to more analytical approach to the topic. In general - paper fulfills it's purpose of being the basis for future research of the topic. It lacks a little bit more of added value in the field for the fifth star.

## THINGS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

Only critique I would like to point out goes towards Table 2. where acronyms of International and Asian federations ended up in wrong columns.

## SUGGESTIONS

Regarding investments mentioned in the introduction and the abstract - sportwashing - a phenomenon that appeared in the last 10-15 years could have been mentioned. Also, I would like to hear more about what author thinks of officialdom being the uncharted territory for researchers (except from psychological perspective). I would say this could be a case because fans don't root for officials (on the contrary - people tend to be mad officials who "damaged" the contestant they support" which necessarily leads to lesser interest. Both athletes (primary actors on the field) and coaches (secondary actors) have the "veil" of their club or national flag over them which makes them more interesting.